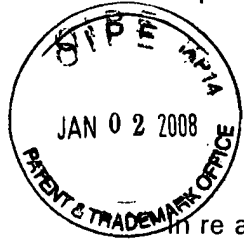


Express Mail No.: EV 907 490 918 US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Alfred D. Commins

Conf. No. 1225

Application No.: 08/975,940

Examiner: **Mai, Lanna**

Filed: November 21 1997

Art Unit: 3637

For: BUILDING WALL FOR RESISTING LATERAL FORCES

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Prosecution in the above-identified application is closed, as the Patent Office has issued a Notice of Allowance. This is a request for continued examination, accompanied by the appropriate fee and this submission, prior to payment of the Issue Fee. The submission constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement only. No changes to the claims are requested.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is required; however, this is a conditional petition and authorization to pay the necessary fees under 37 CFR §1.36(a) to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications or other information, of which Applicant is aware that Applicant believes may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

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This information disclosure statement is accompanied by Form PTO/SB/08 (substitute for Form PTO-1449) and legible copies of all cited foreign patent documents and non-patent literature listed in said form. Pursuant to Notice of August 5, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patent documents and publications are not enclosed.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) and MPEP§ 609(III)(A)(3), Applicant submits that reference nos. B1 through B11 are not in the English language and submits the following concise statements as to their relevance. Applicants' attorney has in his possession what appear to be partial translations of some of these references and full translations of some of the references and is enclosing the same.

B1 — Japanese Publication No. 8-302861

This application appears to teach a wall panel with four perimeter framing members and a panel with its edges inserted in grooves in the framing members, the panel being reinforced by a fifth middle vertical framing member.

B2 — Japanese Publication No. 6-2358

This application appears to teach walls with horizontal top and bottom sills, a plurality of vertical posts, and sheathing fastened to the exterior of the sills and posts.

B3 — Japanese Publication No. 8-159121

This application appears to teach a longitudinally-expanding bolt that can be used to hold wall panels in compression against each other and against surrounding structural members.

B4 — Japanese Publication No. 8-296278

This application appears to teach a method of reinforcing mortis and tenon joints between vertical columns and horizontal members with one of several u-shaped connectors.

B5 — Japanese Publication No. 9-279684

This application appears to teach a method of reinforcing mortis and tenon joints between vertical columns and horizontal members with a u-shaped connector.

B6 — Japanese Publication No. 4-83038

This application appears to teach a method of reinforcing mortis and tenon joints between the bottom of a vertically-oriented planar member and the top surface of a horizontally-oriented planar member.

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B7 — Japanese Publication No. 5-44276

This application appears to teach a method of attaching the bottom of a narrow shear wall, such as a garage return, to an underlying structural member using nuts and bolts, the upper end of the bolts being inserted into the shear wall between two sheathing members.

B8 — Japanese Publication No. 6-322839

This application appears to teach a method of joining two structural members with a bolts and adhesives fed into blind holes. Applicant is submitting eight United States patent applications that claim priority from this Japanese application.

B9 — Japanese Publication No. 4-98908

This application appears to teach a method of joining two wood members with a bolt an a surrounding, toothed "bulldog" plate.

B10 — Japanese Publication JP S60-122420-U1

Full translation attached.

B11 — Japanese Publication JP S60-85144-A

Full translation attached.

C1 — Provisional Patent Application entitled, "Shear Panel joint"

C2 — Affidavit of Karen Colonias Testing of third Party Products by Simpson Strong-Tie

The person making this certification is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information in the practitioner's file.

As far as is known to the undersigned, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), and therefore no fee is required. While no fee

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is believed to be due, if this belief is in error the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-4075 (Atty. Docket No. SST-1148).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/2/08

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Attachments: Form PTO/SB/08 (2 pg)
13 References